

4-2-1990

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Recommended Citation

Joseph, Dan, "IU Law Students Join Nationwide Class Boycott" (1990). *Bryant Garth (1986-1987 Acting; 1987-1990)*. Paper 4.
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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
Maurer School of Law
Bloomington

IU law students join nationwide class boycott

By Dan Joseph
Indiana Daily Student

IU law students will join in a nationwide boycott of law school classes Thursday to protest unequal treatment of minority and women faculty in American law schools, a boycott supporter said Sunday.

Law student Maxine McRae said law students are concerned about the lack of women and minorities among the law school's tenured faculty.

"We would like to see more minority faculty in the law school that are representative of the student body," she said.

The boycott, sponsored by the Black and Latino Law Student As-

sociations and other organizations, will be part of a strike at many law schools throughout the country.

Strike organizers Sal Vasquez and Leigh Williams, both law students, were unavailable for comment.

McRae said only law classes would be affected by the strike.

A pamphlet calling for the boycott condemned university administrations that don't encourage diversity.

"Curricula and scholarship are . . . still grounded in the white male perspective and don't reflect our changing society . . . If Indiana University wishes to compete as a

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national law school, it will have to better reflect the diversity of our nation," the pamphlet said.

Three of IU's 22 tenured law professors are female, and one is black.

Thursday's action will be the second nationwide law student strike. Students from about 35 law schools participated in the first strike on April 6, 1989.

The strike originated last year at

the University of California at Berkeley, where law students organized a boycott of classes to protest the fact that all the faculty members up for tenure were white males.

Students at top law schools such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford and Michigan were among the participants in last year's strike.

Bryant Garth, dean of the school of law, said he understands the students' concern with the lack of minority faculty but frowns upon their methods to make that point.

"I think striking is always a very

strong action," he said. "I don't really approve of anybody skipping classes, but it is an important statement that they are making."

Garth agreed the law school still needs more minorities on the faculty.

"I think the law school has a record of progress (in hiring minorities), but we haven't solved the problem. We can't be content with what we have already done," he said.

The boycotters also will stage rally Thursday at 3 p.m. on the law school steps.